

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-94 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 27, 54, 55, 59 and 86 being independent. Claims 1-26 and 59-94 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 27, 54 and 55 (all the independent claims currently under consideration) are amended herein to more clearly recite their subject matter, including the recitation that the non-volatile liquid is rubbed after it is applied. (Support may be found at least at page 16, lines 18-23 of the specification.) Claims 32 and 56 are amended herein to improve their form without narrowing their scope. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Claim for Foreign Priority

Applicants claimed foreign priority benefits based on JP 2000-401317, filed December 28, 2000. A certified copy was submitted on March 25, 2002. Acknowledgment of the claim and of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under Section 112

Claims 27-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being broader than the enabling disclosure. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended Claims 27, 54 and 55 to recite that the non-

volatile liquid is rubbed after it is applied. It is submitted that the specification and claims comply with all aspects of Section 112, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under Sections 102 and 103

Claims 27, 29-31, 46, 48, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Morikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,620).

Claims 27-29 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly anticipated by Maekawa et al. (JP 56-077154).

Claims 28, 32-34, 44-52 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Morikawa et al. in view of Applicants' alleged statement of the prior art.

Claims 30, 31, 46, 48, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Maekawa et al. in view of Morikawa et al.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections as applied to the current claims.

Before addressing the merits of the rejections, Applicants believe it will be helpful to review some features and advantages of the present invention. The present invention, as recited in Claim 27, relates to a method of manufacturing a recorded matter having an ink-receiving layer of a porous structure. The ink-receiving layer has an image region where an image is formed with a coloring material. The method includes the steps of: (i) applying an ink to the ink-receiving layer to obtain an image region where an image is formed with a coloring material contained in the ink; (ii) applying a liquid comprising a non-volatile liquid not dissolving the coloring material to the ink-receiving layer; and (iii) forming a portion in which all or substantially all of the coloring material distributed in a thickness direction of the ink-

receiving layer is embedded in the non-volatile liquid by rubbing the non-volatile liquid after it is applied.

Claim 54 relates to a method of improving image fastness of a recorded matter in which all or substantially all of the coloring material distributed in a thickness direction of the ink-receiving layer is embedded in a non-volatile liquid not dissolving the coloring material by rubbing the non-volatile liquid after it is applied. Claim 55 relates to a method of improving image fastness of similar scope, wherein the liquid contains at least one of a silicone oil and a hindered ester.

The effect of the rubbing step in the present invention is described in the specification at page 15, line 20 to page 18, line 27. Due to this rubbing step, the coloring material can be present in the non-volatile liquid; this prevents fading of the recorded image. In Applicants' view, the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Morikawa et al. discloses application of various compounds to the surface of printed matter. However, Morikawa et al. is not understood to teach or suggest the rubbing process after the application of such a compound. Applicants submit that, in view of Morikawa et al.'s goal of enhancement of ink fixation, surface treatment of the image is sufficient, and it is not necessary to make the compound penetrate into the recorded matter.

Maekawa et al. also discloses application of various compounds to the surface of the printed matter. Applicants submit, however, that Maekawa et al. does not teach or suggest the rubbing process after the application of the treating compound, either.

Accordingly, neither Morikawa et al. nor Maekawa et al. teaches or suggests at least the feature of the rubbing process. The features mentioned by the Examiner in the rejection over Morikawa et al. in view of Applicants' alleged statement of the prior art, namely, particulate

receiving layers, porous intermediate layers and silicone oils, do not remedy the deficiencies of these references.

Conclusion

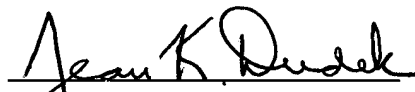
Applicants conclude that none of the cited art, whether taken singly or in the combinations proposed by the Examiner, anticipates or renders obvious the claimed invention as recited in independent Claims 27, 54 or 55. Withdrawal of all rejections is respectfully requested. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the same reasons as their respective independent claims and because they set forth additional patentable aspects of the present invention. Separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above-noted rejections, rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 1-26 and 59-94, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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